United Nations A/59/448/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 April 2005

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 108

Programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

Report of the Fifth Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 108 appear in the reports of the Committee contained in documents A/59/448 and Add.1 and 2.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item, at its 34th, 35th, 38th, 39th, 41st and 42nd meetings, on 7, 8, 17, 22 and 30 March and 1 April 2005. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/59/SR.34, 35, 38, 39, 41 and 42).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and ad litem judges for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/C.5/59/2 and Corr.1) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/557);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (A/59/170);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the information and communications technology strategy (A/59/265) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/558);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the structure and functions of all liaison offices or representation in New York of organizations

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headquartered elsewhere funded from the regular budget (A/59/395) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/552);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account (A/[illegible]/397);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa (A/59/444) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/572);

(g) Biennial report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel (A/59/523) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/573);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council: United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville (A/59/534/Add.3) and related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/59/569/Add.3);

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the operations and management of United Nations libraries (A/59/373);

(j) Note by the Secretary-General on the redeployment of posts (A/59/753).

II. Consideration of draft proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.36

4. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 April 2005, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005" (A/C.5/59/L.36), containing sections A to C, which was submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations. Section A, entitled "Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council", was coordinated by the representative of Austria; section B, entitled "Information and communication technology strategy", was coordinated by the representative of Costa Rica; and section C, entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda", was coordinated by the representative of Austria.

5. Also at the 42nd meeting, before the adoption of the draft resolution, the Director ad interim of the Programme Planning and Budget Division provided the Committee with the Secretariat's understanding of the draft resolution (see A/C.5/59/SR.42).

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/59/L.36 without a vote (see para. 12).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of Nigeria made a statement (see A/C.5/59/SR.42).

B. Draft decisions contained in A/C.5/59/L.38

8. At its 34th meeting, on 7 March 2005, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee adopted an oral draft decision on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships. The text of the draft decision was subsequently issued in document A/C.5/59/L.38, draft decision A.

9. At its 42nd meeting, on 1 April 2005, the Committee had before it in document A/C.5/59/L.38 draft decisions B to F submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations. Draft decision B, entitled "Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa", was coordinated by the representative of Romania; draft decision C, entitled "Review of the structure and functions of all liaison offices or representation in New York of organizations headquartered elsewhere funded from the regular budget", was coordinated by the representative of the Bahamas; draft decision D, entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the operations and management of United Nations libraries", was coordinated by the representative of Venezuela; draft decision E, entitled "Review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account", was coordinated by the representative of Jordan; and draft decision F, entitled "Standards of accommodation for air travel", was coordinated by the representative of Costa Rica.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decisions contained in document A/C.5/59/L.38 without a vote (see para. 13).

11. After the adoption of the draft decisions, the representative of Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the African Group) made a statement (see A/C.5/59/SR.42).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

12. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Special subjects relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

I
Estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[2]

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consider ways and means of presenting the budgets of large missions in a manner that is more suitable for their size and complexity;

4. *Reiterates* that the charging of expenditures against the appropriation for special political missions is subject to the extension of the respective mandates;

5. *Notes* that an additional amount of 82,472,600 United States dollars is requested for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq for the period from 1 May to 31 December 2005 and an additional amount of 701,800 dollars is requested for the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville for the period from 16 February to 15 August 2005, including the liquidation period;

6. *Approves* the budgets of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville as set out in table 1 of the report of the Secretary-General;

7. *Decides* to appropriate, in accordance with the procedures set out in paragraph 11 of annex I to its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, an amount of 83,174,400 dollars for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Observer Mission in Bougainville;

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[1] A/59/534/Add.3 and Corr.1.

[2] A/59/569/Add.3.

8. *Also decides* to appropriate an amount of 4,131,200 dollars under section 34, Staff assessment, to be offset by a corresponding amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005;

II

Information and communication technology strategy

Recalling its resolutions 57/295 of 20 December 2002, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/126 B of 10 December 2004 and 59/265 of 23 December 2004,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the information and communication technology strategy[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[4]

Acknowledging that investment in information and communication technology is not an end in itself and should be aimed at improving the quality and timely delivery of mandates in a cost-effective manner,

1. *Takes note* of the progress report of the Secretary-General in implementing the information and communication technology strategy[3] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[4]

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop and implement cost-neutral measures to provide Member States with secure access to the information currently accessible only on the Intranet ("iSeek") of the United Nations Secretariat in the working languages of the United Nations;

3. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts in the field of disaster recovery and security threats in the new Department of Safety and Security as well as in the Information Technology Services Division of the Office of Central Support Services, and encourages all decision takers involved to elaborate a comprehensive approach in this matter;

4. *Requests* a more detailed analysis of the return on investment and the impact of such investment on the quality and timelines of service delivery and of the resource requirements resulting from information and communication technology projects, as described in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General,[3] in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 and future budgets;

5. *Takes note* of the ongoing efforts for the elaboration of a comprehensive information and communication technology strategy, and reiterates the need for further integration and compatibility of administrative platforms of the inter-agency network and, in this regard, invites the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination to pay due attention to the issue;

6. *Recognizes* that technological infrastructures and supportive applications in the United Nations are based on Latin script, which leads to difficulties in processing non-Latin and bidirectional scripts, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that technological infrastructures and supportive

[3] A/59/265.

[4] A/59/558, paras. 2-18.

applications in the United Nations fully support Latin, non-Latin and bidirectional scripts so as to enhance the equality of the official languages of the United Nations;

7. *Takes note* that some projects listed in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General are on hold, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their implementation, as feasible;

8. *Recalls* paragraphs 9 and 10 of section II of its resolution 59/266 of 23 December 2004, takes note of paragraph 5 of the report of Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to report on measures to improve the Galaxy tool;

9. *Notes with appreciation* that public wireless Internet (Wi-Fi) hot spots have been made available in the Secretariat Building, and notes the intention of the Secretary-General to extend wireless coverage to the entire United Nations compound;

III
Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

Recalling section VIII of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, its resolution 56/285 of 27 June 2002 and its resolution 57/289 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling further Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice, judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[5] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Endorses* the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Reaffirms* the principle that conditions of service and compensation for non-Secretariat United Nations officials shall be separate and distinct from those of officials in the United Nations Secretariat;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in future reports on the conditions of service of the members of the Court and the judges of the Tribunals, to present

[5] A/C.5/59/2 and Corr.1.

[6] A/59/557.

clearly information on annual salaries payable in both United States dollars and the applicable local currency, with full information on the actual dollar requirements for the budget concerned;

4. *Decides* to increase the annual salary of the members of the Court and the judges of the Tribunals by 6.3 per cent effective 1 January 2005, as an interim measure and pending a decision based on the report requested in paragraph 8 below;

5. *Also decides* that the annual value of all pensions in payment as from 1 January 2005 shall be increased by 6.3 per cent as an interim measure and pending a decision based on the report requested in paragraph 8 below;

6. *Further decides* that, in addition to the provisions of paragraph 2 of part C of resolution 40/257 of 18 December 1985, with effect from 1 January 2005 those members of the Court who have taken up and maintained a bona fide primary residence at The Hague for less than five continuous years during their service with the Court shall be eligible, upon the completion of their appointment and resettlement outside the Netherlands, to receive a lump sum prorated on the basis of the ceiling of eighteen weeks' annual net base salary that is payable to members of the Court who have served for five continuous years, and also decides that those members of the Court who have similarly taken up and maintained a bona fide primary residence in The Hague for more than five years but for less than nine years shall be eligible upon the completion of their appointment and resettlement outside the Netherlands for a lump sum prorated on the basis of the ceiling of twenty-four weeks' annual net base salary that is payable to members of the Court who have served nine continuous years or more;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on the additional expenditures relating to the above decisions in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 and the second performance reports on the budgets of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2004-2005;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, including proposals for a mechanism of remuneration based on market exchange rates and local retail price fluctuations that limits the divergence of such remuneration from that of comparable positions of seniority within the United Nations system, on the protection of pensions in payment to former judges and their survivors as well as on the differences between the pension benefits of the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda on the one hand and the members of the International Court of Justice on the other;

9. *Decides* that the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice, the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda shall next be reviewed at its sixty-first session.

13. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships.[1]

Draft decision II
Construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa

The General Assembly:

(a) Takes note with appreciation of the efforts by the Government of Ethiopia to facilitate the construction project;

(b) Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the construction of additional office facilities at the Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa,[2] and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[3]

Draft decision III
Review of the structure and functions of all liaison offices or representation in New York of organizations headquartered elsewhere funded from the regular budget

The General Assembly takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the structure and functions of all liaison offices or representation in New York of organizations headquartered elsewhere funded from the regular budget[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.[5]

Draft decision IV
Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the operations and management of United Nations libraries

The General Assembly decides to defer to its sixtieth session consideration of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of the operations and management of United Nations libraries.[6]

[1] A/59/170.
[2] A/59/444.
[3] A/59/572.
[4] A/59/395.
[5] A/59/552.
[6] A/59/373.

Draft decision V
Review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account

The General Assembly decides to consider, as a matter of priority at the earliest possible period, but not later than the main part of its sixtieth session, the report of the Secretary-General on the review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account.[7]

Draft decision VI
Standards of accommodation for air travel

The General Assembly, having considered the report of the Secretary-General on standards of accommodation for air travel[8] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9] takes note of the report of the Secretary-General and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

[7] A/59/397.
[8] A/59/523.
[9] A/59/573.